

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, BBAK, EINV, NL

SUBJ: SENATE INVESTIGATION INTO LOCKHEED'S BUSINESS PRACTICES:

ALLEGATIONS RE PRINCE BERNHARD

REF: THE HAGUE 205

1. SUMMARY: ERNEST HAUSER, IN INTERVIEW WITH DUTCH TELEVISION, REPEATS HIS STORY OF POSSIBLE PAYMENTS TO PRINCE BERNHARD. ALLEGES HUGE SUMS OF MONEY PAID AS COMMISSIONS IN NETHERLANDS. GERRITSEN, LOCKHEED'S DUTCH REP, HAS ANNOUNCED THAT HE INVESTIGATING POSSIBILITY OF SUING HAUSER. END SUMMARY

2. DUTCH TELEVISION CARRIED SPECIAL INTERVIEW JAN 15 WITH HAUSER, FORMER LOCKHEED EMPLOYEE, WHO IS SOURCE OF ALLEGATIONS CONCERNING COMPANY PAYOFFS TO PRINCE BERNHARD. HAUSER, SPEAKING CALMLY AND UNEMOTIONALLY, SKETCHED OUT PROCESS IN WHICH EQUIPMENT CHANGES FOR F-104'S WERE PROPOSED. HE SAID THAT PROPOSED CHANGES WOULD OFTEN RUN AFOUL OF COL. STOKLA, WHO WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR MONITORING PROGRAM FOR THE NETHERLANDS, NECESSITATING APPEAL TO HIGHER AUTHORITY TO OVERRIDE HIM. LOCKHEED WOULD RELY, ACCORDING TO HAUSER, ON PRINCE TO GO OVER STOKLA'S HEAD IN DUTCH AIR FORCE.

3. HAUSER WAS CAREFUL THROUGHOUT TO SAY THAT HE COULD NOT PERSONALLY STATE THAT THE PRINCE HAD RECEIVED ANY MONEY NOR COULD HE

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PROVE THAT THE PRINCE HAD EVER INTERVENED ON BEHALF OF THE COM-

PANY IN GETTING THE CHAGES APPROVED. HE COULD SAY, HOWEVER, THAT SHORTLY AFTER SOME OF THE MEETINGS WITH GERRITSEN OR MEUSER IN WHICH IT WAS DECIDED TO MAKE USE OF THE PRINCE'S INFLUENCE, THE DUTCH POSITION AGAINST CHANGES WOULD BE REVERSED.

4. MOST STARTLING PART OF HAUSER'S STORY TO EMBASSY OFFICERS WHO WATCHED, AND PRESUMABLY TO DUTCH AS WELL, WAS HIS CLAIM THAT GERRITSEN AND MEUSER WOULD HAVE BEEN ENTITLED TO COMMISSIONS OF APPROXIMATELY 100-MILLION DOLLARS. THIS FIGURE ARRIVED AT BY ROUGH CALCULATION OF 10 PERCENT COMMISSION ON APPROXIMATELY 125 NINE-MILLION-DOLLAR AIRPLANES (INCLUDING SPARES AND ELECTRONICS).

5. DUTCH PRESS TODAY REPORTS THAT GERRITSEN HAS ASKED HIS ATTORNEY TO LOOK INTO MEASURES HE CAN TAKE AGAINST HAUSER. ATTORNEY APPARENTLY TRIED TO BLOCK BROADCAST OF TELEVISION INTERVIEW WITH HAUSER, BUT VPRO (ORIGINATOR OF PROGRAM) REFUSED KEEP IT OFF AIR. ATTORNEY ALSO REPORTED TO HAVE ASKED THAT ALL UNSOLD COPIES OF "NIEUWE REVU" BE CONFISCATED (REFTEL).

6. COMMENT: GOVERNMENT HAS MADE NO COMMENT ON THESE ADDITIONAL PUBLIC DISCLOSURES OF HAUSER'S STORY, NOR HAS ROYAL HOUSEHOLD. SHOULD HAUSER'S STORY OF 100-MILLION DOLLARS IN COMMISSIONS BE VERIFIED, PRESENT CONCERN OF MANY DUTCH, WHICH SO FAR HAS BEEN MAINLY BELOW SURFACE, WILL QUICKLY BECOME VISIBLE AND PROBABLY REQUIRE GON TO TAKE SOME POSITION.
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